



# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

PARISH WORKBOOK  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI - LUEBBERING

# ABOUT YOUR PARISH WORKBOOK

- This parish workbook is designed to equip pastors and key parish leaders with data about the Archdiocese of St. Louis, your local planning area, and your parish.
- The data contained in this parish workbook has been gathered over the past twenty years from your parish and other parishes across the Archdiocese.
- This parish workbook should be used as an internal planning tool to help shape your reflections on the current strengths and opportunities for future growth of ministry and evangelization in the future.
- To help ensure accuracy of information, parishes are requested to limit the distribution of the information contained in this parish workbook to the pastor, parish staff, key parish leaders, and key advisory bodies. Information summarizing this data will be made available in the fall 2022 for parishioners across the Archdiocese.



# ALL THINGS NEW PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News.

Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all things.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to “Go and Make Disciples of all Nations,” strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new.

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future, may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## GUIDING TEXTS

### REV. 21:3-5

*I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them.*

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, the old order has passed away.”*

*The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then he said, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.”*





## GUIDING TEXTS EVANGELII NUNTIANDI (#18)

*For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: "Now I am making the whole of creation new."*

*But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism and by lives lived according to the Gospel.*







## GUIDING TEXTS JOY OF THE GOSPEL (#27)

*I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.*



# STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE OUTCOME

**Develop a plan that will make all things new enabling a vibrant Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis for the next century**

## **A Renewed Church**

Gospel renewal in our parishes, schools, and other ministry efforts

## **A Renewed Mission**

Enhance our evangelization efforts to those on the margins of society

## **A Vibrant Future**

Secure a vibrant future for the Church of St. Louis



# STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE

## GOALS

1. **Unceasing Prayer.** Engage all individual Catholics to reflect upon the need for Jesus Christ in their daily lives and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide our actions to fully share the love of the Lord in every encounter.
2. **Unifying Vision.** Articulate and implement a vision for evangelization that empowers and expects every baptized Catholic to spread the Gospel message and ensures a Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis through missionary outreach, parish and school footprint, and dynamic leadership.
3. **Intentional Stewardship.** Define and develop a plan that will appropriately reallocate resources throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis that will be supported by structures at the diocesan, parish, school, and agency levels to ensure long-term viability and vibrancy of the Catholic presence.





# ALL THINGS NEW TIMELINE





# ALL THINGS NEW

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OUR DIOCESE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

# ABOUT OUR DIOCESE

- The Archdiocese of St. Louis is 178 parishes encompassing the City of St. Louis and 10 surrounding counties – a large and diverse territory: urban, suburban and rural.
- Our local church has been declining for several decades as older Catholics die and there are insufficient number of young Catholics to take their place.
- This is best exemplified by the significant decline in the number of births and baptisms in our diocese.
- As our Catholic population has moved from the city to the near suburbs and from the near suburbs to the farther out suburbs, this has resulted in too few priests in large parishes and too many priests in small parishes.
- Our diocesan priests are aging and number of priests to serve our Catholic population is declining.
- Over the past decade, Mass attendance has been on a steady decline. The long-term implications of COVID are unknown, but the rebound in Mass attendance from 2020 to 2021 still leaves us 25% below pre-COVID levels.



# OUR TERRITORY FOR EVANGELIZATION



# OUR CATHOLIC POPULATION CONTINUES TO DECLINE

- In 2021, the number of Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis dipped below 500,000 for first time since the 1960s.
- We have more baptisms than funerals and we have nearly 1,000 enter the church each year. Our numbers should be growing by 2,000 per year.
- As many as 5,000 Catholics are “leaving” the Church – OR – not re-engaging in the Church after high school or college.



# OUR CATHOLIC POPULATION IS AGING RESULTING IN FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE

## The Landscape in the United States

- In the last decade, the percentage of the adult population claiming no religious affiliation (the “nones”) grew from 17% to 26%.
- In the last decade, the percentage of the millennial population claiming no religious affiliation grew from 27% to 40%.

## The Landscape in the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Our baptism and marriage trends reflect the national landscape, as they are half of what they were 20 years ago.





# WEEKLY SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mass attendance was declining between 0.5% to 1% per year.
- Mass attendance hit a record low in October 2020 which is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While Mass attendance in October 2021 showed a significant increase from 2020, it was still 25% lower than Mass attendance in October 2019.
- In 2019, only 33% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass. By 2021, only 25% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass.



# FEWER BAPTISMS HAVE RESULTED IN FEWER CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND PSR

- Though we educate a higher percentage of children in our Catholic schools than nearly any other diocese (37%), enrollment continues to decline.
- During the last decade, PSR enrollment has declined faster than day school enrollment.
- Our current model of Catholic elementary schools cannot continue.
  - Only 40-50% of our elementary school children live in the boundaries of their parish school.
  - The cost to educate our students continues to outpace tuition increases.
  - Parish investment in our schools continues to absorb an increasing percentage of parish funds available to support other parish ministries.



# OUR PRIESTS ARE AGING

- 35% of our diocesan priests (74 priests) serving in parishes are 65 years of age or older.
- These 74 priests could retire in the next 10 years.
- Though priests' retirement age is 75, the average of retirement for our diocesan priests has been 71.
- By 2026, we will have fewer diocesan priests to serve in parishes than the number of parishes we have.
- Our largest parishes will still need to be served by 2-3 priests.



\* Excluding retired priests resident in parishes



# OUR FINITE RESOURCES NEED TO BE REALIGNED TO ENABLE VIBRANT MINISTRY



Number of Priests *	49	46	38	27	50
Ratio of Parishioners to Priests	619	1,416	1,996	2,704	3,411

\* Includes diocesan and religious order priests





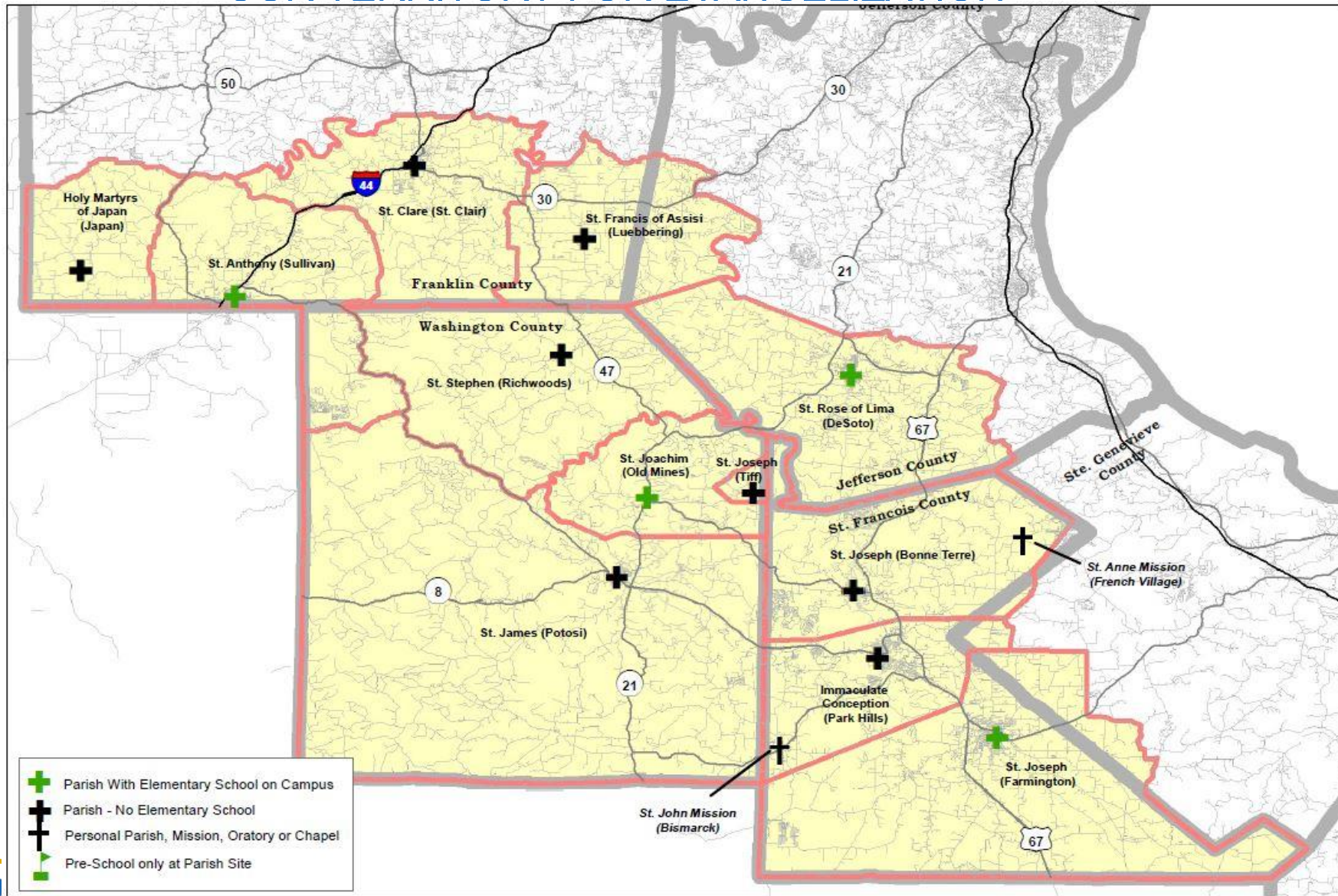
# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

OUR PLANNING AREA  
PLANNING AREA #14

# OUR TERRITORY FOR EVANGELIZATION





# ABOUT OUR PLANNING AREA

- The planning area is in the Counties of Jefferson, St. Francois, Washington and Franklin with a small portion to the east in Ste. Genevieve County. The geography of this area is defined by Interstate 44, Highway 67 and Routes 8, 21, 30, and 47.
- This planning area covers the southwest corner of the diocese and includes parishes from the Festus, Washington and Ste. Genevieve deaneries. There are 12 territorial parishes, 2 missions and 4 elementary schools. Currently there are 10 diocesan priests assigned to this group.
- There are clusters of church buildings within 20 minutes driving time and along travel routes.



# OUR PLANNING AREA IS RURAL AND NOT VERY CATHOLIC

- Total population in the planning area in the 2020 census was down 1% from 2010.
- The population 55 or older increased from 22% in 2000 to 30% in 2020.
- Only 8% of the population is registered Catholic, which is lower than the Diocesan average of 18%.
- Median household income in the area is \$47,951, which is below the archdiocesan average of \$60,700.



# OUR PLANNING AREA DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(U.S. Census Data)	1990	2000	2010	2020
Population	115,440	132,264	144,910	143,831
Percent Change		15%	10%	-1%
Households	41,053	48,801	54,105	54,656
Percent Change		19%	11%	1%
Population				
White	113,192	127,899	138,150	130,963
Percent of Total	98%	97%	95%	91%
Black	1,637	2,064	3,722	3,617
Percent of Total	1%	2%	3%	3%
Other/Multi-Race	611	2,301	3,038	9,251
Percent of Total	1%	2%	2%	6%
Hispanic (not a race)	520	1,030	1,635	2,132
Percent of Total	0%	1%	1%	1%
% of Population Age 55+	23%	23%	26%	30%

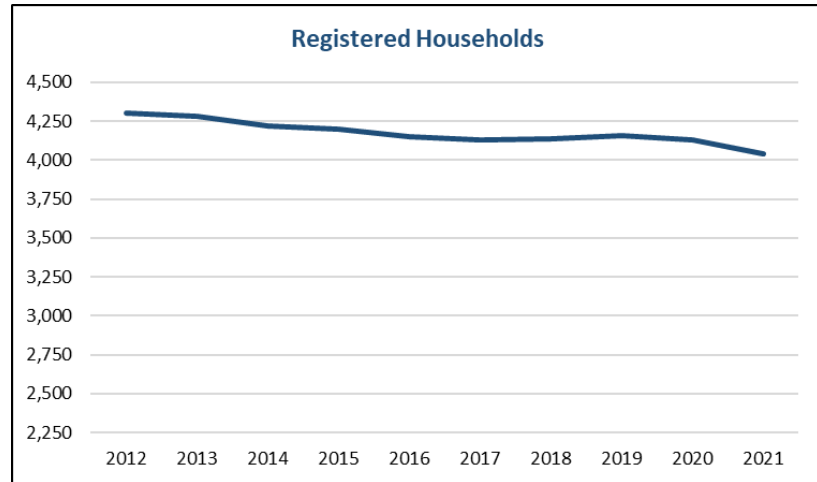
2020 Data	
% of Households - Renters	27%
% of Households - Single Person Living Alone	26%
Median Household Income	
Planning Area	\$ 47,396
Archdiocese	\$ 60,700
2021 Data	
% of Population Registered Catholic	
Planning Area	8%
Archdiocese	18%
No. of Catholic School Children in Planning Area	381
2017-2021 (Five-Year Average)	
% 8th Grade Students to Catholic High Schools	37%



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

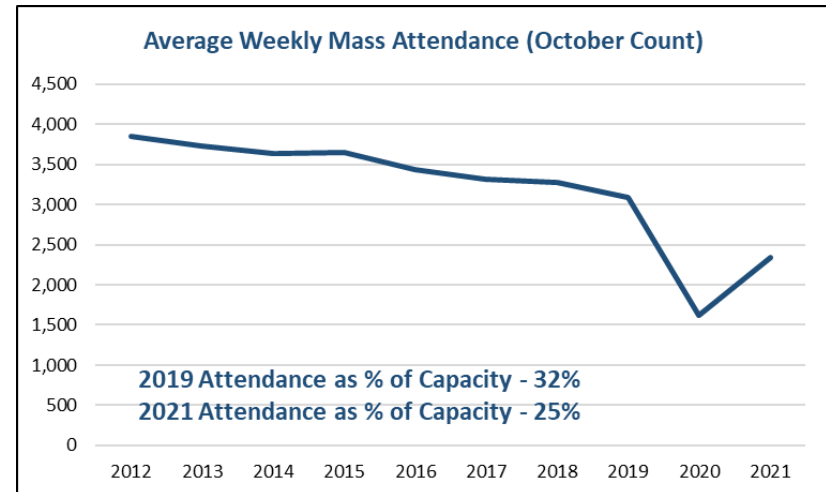
- Registered households in the planning area declined by 6% during the past decade, compared to a decline of 7% for the diocese.



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## MASS ATTENDANCE

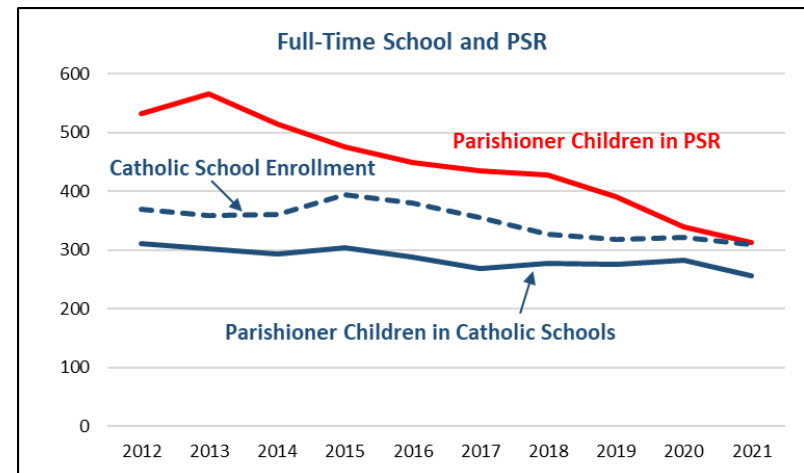
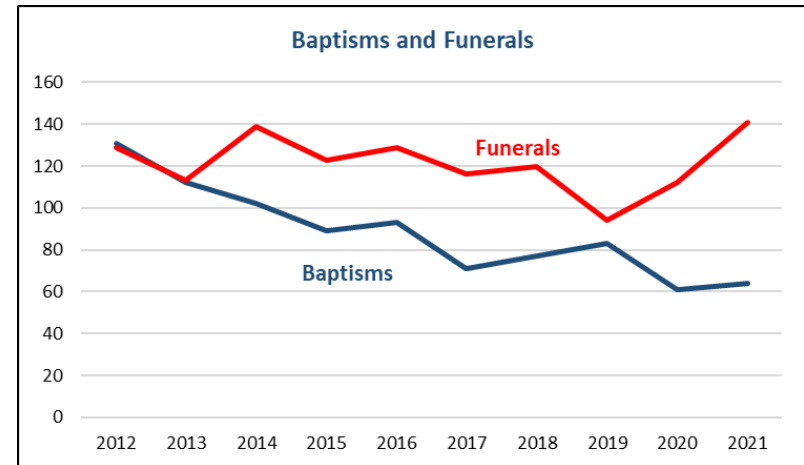
- Mass attendance has declined.
- Mass attendance declined 29% during the decade, similar to the 30% decline for the entire archdiocese.
- Mass attendance as percent of capacity was similar to the archdiocesan average of 35% in 2019 and 25% in 2021.



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, & K-8 FORMATION

- There is an aging Catholic population with funerals in excess of baptisms.
- Catholic school enrollment declined 16% during the decade, though bolstered by non-Catholic students.
- PSR enrollment declined by 41% during the decade about the same as the 40% decline for the diocese as a whole.
- Unlike the diocese as a whole, Catholics in this planning area tend to prefer PSR to Catholic day schools.





# OUR PLANNING AREA

## MINISTRY TRENDS

	Registered Parishioner Households		Number of Catholics	Weekend Mass Attendance		Church Capacity	Baptisms	Funerals	Parishioner Children in:	
							Five Year Average 2017-2021		Catholic Schools (Include Privates)	Traditional PSR
	2011	2021	2021	2019	2021					2021-22
Holy Martyrs of Japan (Japan)	150	157	418	193	140	300	4	4	8	26
Immaculate Conception (Park Hills)	283	258	570	186	137	315	4	11	3	24
St Anne Mission (French Village)	60	48	104	50	45	150	0	2	0	2
St. Anthony (Sullivan)	365	327	850	308	254	550	8	14	27	38
St. Clare (St. Clair)	346	311	815	205	173	204	4	10	9	9
St. Francis of Assisi (Luebbering)	200	170	450	55	28	130	2	5	0	12
St. James (Potosi)	380	295	705	211	171	220	4	10	4	30
St. Joachim (Old Mines)	422	348	737	270	183	300	7	19	25	43
St. John Mission (Bismark)	36	26	51	35	29	178	0	1	0	5
St. Joseph (Bonne Terre)	315	193	391	238	151	320	2	10	2	11
St. Joseph (Farmington)	600	613	1,570	645	513	276	14	8	103	42
St. Joseph (Tiff)	43	33	61	30	20	75	0	0	0	0
St. Rose of Lima (De Soto)	988	1,150	2,800	600	450	300	21	18	75	69
St. Stephen (Richwoods)	120	114	235	63	47	150	0	5	0	2
TOTAL	4,308	4,043	9,757	3,089	2,341		71	117	256	313



# OUR PLANNING AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS DECLINING

- The four elementary schools in this planning area have 310 children enrolled in Catholic elementary schools, down 14% from 5 years ago. All schools have under 200 students.
- The number of students going to Catholic elementary schools from the parishes in the planning area is 256.
- There are 313 students enrolled in PSR in 2021, down 30% from 5 years earlier.



# OUR PLANNING AREA

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRENDS

	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22 vs 2016-17	2021-22	2021-22
	Enrollment (K-8)	Enrollment (Pre-K) PK 3-4 & PK 4-5	5 Year Percent Change in (K-8) Enrollment	% K-8 Students Registered in Parish	% K-8 Students Living in Parish Boundaries
St. Anthony - Sullivan	42	12	(34%)	62%	60%
St. Joachim - Old Mines	46	8	(2%)	54%	46%
St. Joseph - Farmington	125	25	(7%)	82%	74%
St. Rose of Lima - De Soto	97	18	23%	72%	79%
TOTAL (% Change includes schools that closed)	310	63	(19%)	n/a	n/a





# ALL THINGS NEW

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OUR PARISH  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI - LUEBBERING

## ABOUT OUR PARISH

- St. Francis of Assisi parish is located in the southeastern corner of Franklin County, but the parish area is split between Franklin and Jefferson Counties. The parish dates to 1874. For the first 50 years, the parish was ministered to by the parishes in Richwoods, Moselle, and Sullivan. In 1919, the parish received its first resident pastor. The parish has never had an elementary school.
- The parish has 170 households. The parish church was built in 1945 and seats 130. The parish administers its own parish cemetery.



# ABOUT OUR PARISH

- This very non-Catholic area did not grow during the past decade.
- Parishioner households and Mass attendance have both been declining.
- Parish is in fair financial condition. Stable offertory and slightly growing but a low level of reserves.





# OUR PARISH AREA HAS SEEN A DECLINE IN POPULATION DURING THE LAST DECADE

- According to the 2020 census, the population of St. Francis area declined since the 2010 census after having grown the two previous decades.
- Median household income is \$56,500 which is below the archdiocesan average of \$60,700.
- Only 9% of the resident population is Catholic which is well below the archdiocesan average of 18%.



# OUR PARISH

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(U.S. Census Data)	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>
Population	5,592	7,068	7,505	7,384
Percent Change		26%	6%	-2%
Households	1,867	2,475	2,804	2,927
Percent Change		33%	13%	4%
Population				
White	5,510	6,899	7,301	6,952
Percent of Total	99%	98%	97%	94%
Black	59	49	64	31
Percent of Total	1%	1%	1%	0%
Other/Multi-Race	23	120	140	402
Percent of Total	0%	2%	2%	5%
Hispanic (not a race)	18	54	72	73
Percent of Total	0%	1%	1%	1%
% of Population Age 55+	17%	19%	26%	31%

2020 Data	
% of Households - Renters	16%
% of Households - Single Person Living Alone	18%

### Median Household Income

Parish Area	\$ 56,505
Archdiocese	\$ 60,700

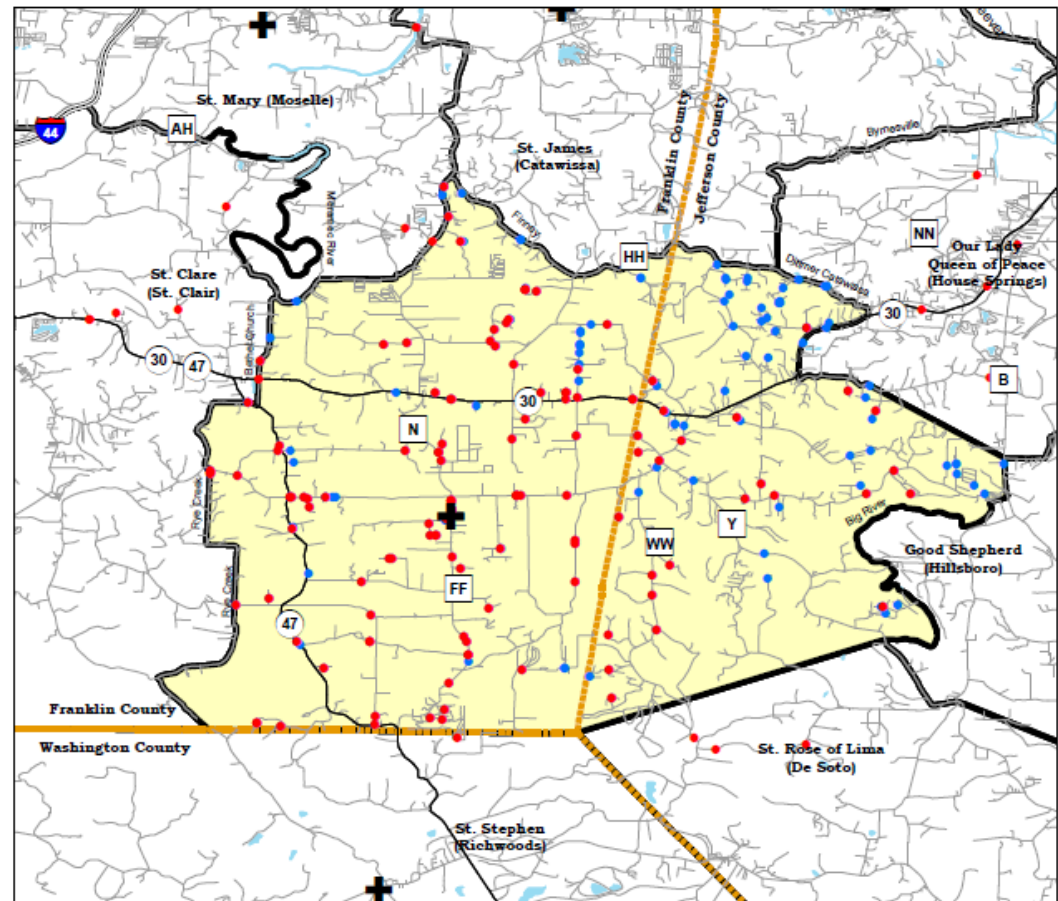
2021 Data	
% of Population Registered Catholic	
Parish Area	9%
Archdiocese	18%
No. of Catholic School Children in Parish Area	11
2017-2021 (Five-Year Average)	
% 8th Grade Students to Catholic High Schools	n/a



# WHERE OUR PARISHIONERS & CATHOLICS LIVE

- Red dots are parishioner households; blue dots are Catholic households that are registered at a different parish.
- There are more Catholic households in the boundaries (226), than there are parishioner households (168).
- This means that more Catholic households leave the parish territory to be affiliated elsewhere, than come into St. Francis parish from outside the boundaries.
- Most Catholic households on the Jefferson County side of the parish are not St. Francis parishioners.

76 Percent of parishioner households live within the parish boundaries  
57 Percent of Catholic households living within the parish boundaries are parishioners



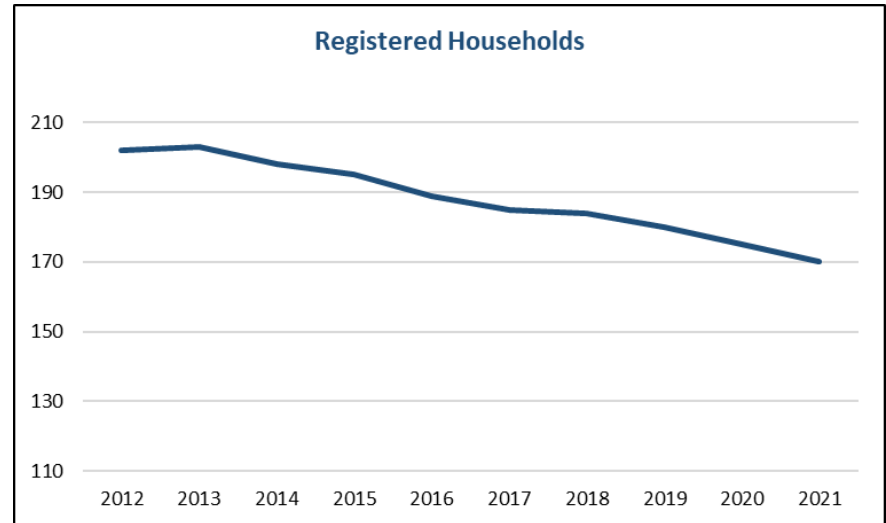
• Parishioner Households	
• Catholic households living in parish boundaries that are members of another parish	
Residence of Parishioners	
<b>St. Francis - Luebbering</b>	128 76%
St. Clare - St. Clair	20
Our Lady Queen of Peace	6
St. Mary - Moselle	3
Other	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>
Parish Membership of HH in parish boundaries	
<b>St. Francis - Luebbering</b>	128 57%
Our Lady Queen of Peace	45
St. Clare - St. Clair	14
St. Bridget - Pacific	10
Other	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

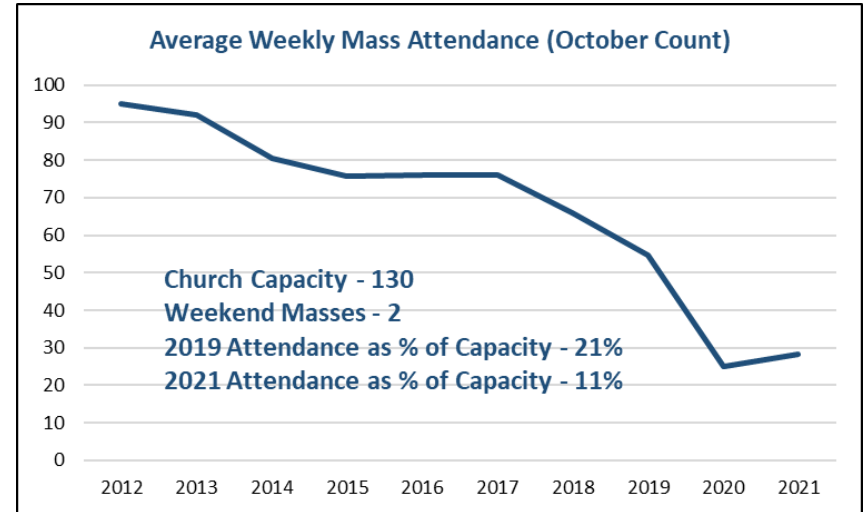
- Parish membership has been declining over the past decade.



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## MASS ATTENDANCE

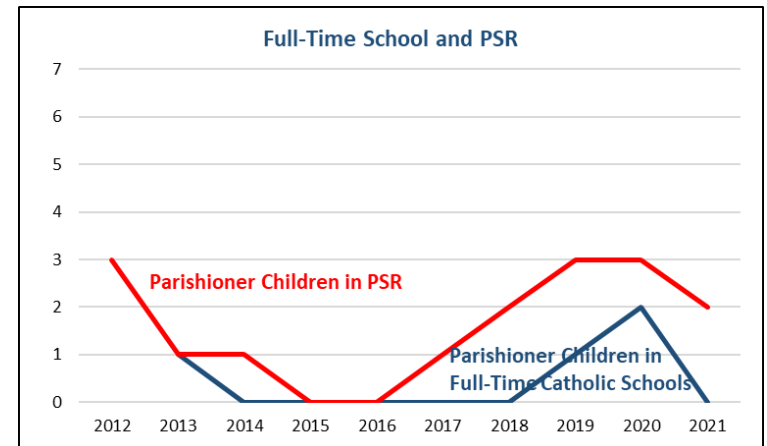
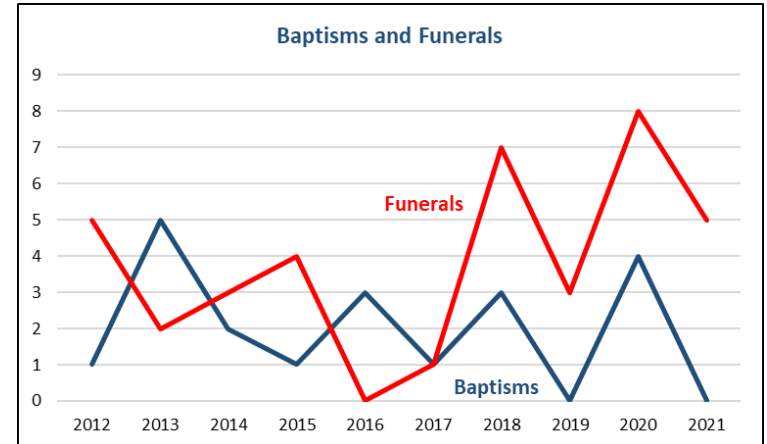
- Pre-COVID Mass attendance was declining.
- Mass attendance a percent of capacity is below that of the archdiocesan average of 33% in 2019 and 25% in 2022.
- Pre-COVID Mass attendance percent of registered parishioners was 12-16%, well below the archdiocesan average of 27-29%.



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, & K-8 RELIGIOUS FORMATION

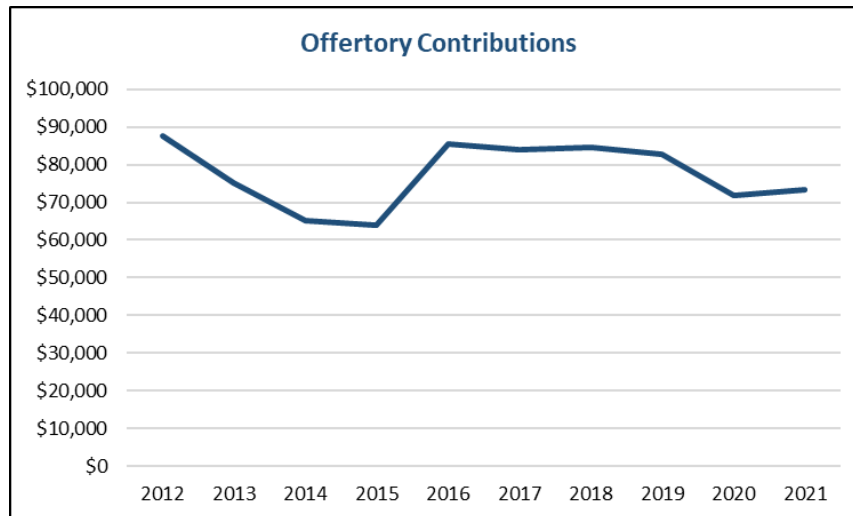
- Too few baptisms, funerals, and children in Catholic formation to detect a trend.
- Funerals higher than baptisms indicates an aging parish.



# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Offertory contributions have been stable during the past decade.



# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## INVESTMENT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- Having few if any children in Catholic schools, there hasn't been a contribution from the parish to any other parishes for Catholic education of parishioner children.





# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## PARISH FINANCIAL CONDITION

- Parish revenues higher than expense through much of the decade enabled the parish to build some reserves.

